

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-10 SPC-01 PRS-01 NSC-10

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIA-04 DRC-01

SAM-01 /067 W

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R 081611Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3189

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 1903

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, TW, IT

SUBJECT: CHINESE PRESS REPRESENTATION: ITALY

REF: STATE 023516 (NOTAL)

1. RESPONSIBLE ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL HAS PROVIDED US WITH INFORMATION RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN REFTEL.

2. BOTH CNA AND NCNA HAVE REPRESENTATIVES IN ROME. NEITHER HAVE RAISED WITH GOI AS ISSUE THE OTHER'S PRESENCE HERE, ALTHOUGH NCNA HAS MENTIONED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT IT WILL NOT RPT NOT JOIN LOCAL FOREIGN PRESS ASSOCIATION (FPA) AS LONG AS CNA REP IS MEMBER.

3. ALTHOUGH FPA IS OSTENSIBLY PRIVATE ORGANIZATION, IT IS SUBSIDIZED BY GOI AND MEMBERSHIP IS RECOGNIZED AS EVIDENCE OF STATUS AS BONAFIDE JOURNALIST. MFA OFFICIAL SAID, HOWEVER, THAT BECAUSE OF "PRIVATE" STATUS OF FPA, MINISTRY COULD NOT RPT NOT QUESTION IN ANY WAY ITS CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP. SOURCE SAID THAT FPA IS AWARE THAT CNA MEMBERSHIP PRECLUDES NCNA MEMBERSHIP.

4. RE ACCREDITATIONS TO GOVERNMENT OFFICES, OFFICIAL PRESS BRIEF-CONFIDENTIAL

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INGS, ETC., SOURCE SAID THAT CNA IS NO RPT NO LONGER SO ACCREDITED

BY GOI, ALTHOUGH NCNA IS. HE REMARKED, HOWEVER, THAT AS A PRACTICAL MATTER THIS ACCREDITATION HAS LITTLE OR NO EFFECT ON OPERATIONS OF EITHER AGENCY SINCE IT IS NOT RPT NOT GOI PRACTICE TO HOLD OFFICIAL PRESS BRIEFINGS AND FPA CARD IS USUALLY ENOUGH TO GAIN ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

5. OFFICIAL SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY COULD GET INTO ACT WHEN CNA REP'S JOURNALIST VISA COMES UP FOR RENEWAL IN SEVERAL MONTHS TIME. HE ASSERTED, HOWEVER, THAT MFA DOES NOT RPT NOT INTEND TO ASK CNA REP TO DEPART, BUT MAY OFFER HIM ALTERNATIVE OF REMAINING UNDER REGULAR RESIDENCE VISA. HE REITERATED THAT NCNA HAS NEVER MADE OFFICIAL PROTEST OF CNA'S PRESENCE HERE.

6. COMMENT: LIVE AND LET LIVE SITUATION DESCRIBED ABOVE IS TYPICALLY ITALIAN SOLUTION TO PROBLEMS OF THIS SORT. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC ACCREDITATION, THE PRESS, DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ROME01903
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740245/aaaabqgu.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: STATE 023516 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <29 NOV 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHINESE PRESS REPRESENTATION: ITALY
TAGS: PFOR, CH, TW, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005